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A newsletter from the Pacific  
Southwest Regional Medical Library  
for the National Network of Libraries  
of Medicine, Pacific Southwest  
Region

**In this issue:**

- Hints on Becoming a PubMed Expert Searcher
- You Can Get MLA CE Credit for the Expert Searcher Teleconference Even If You Were Not Able to Attend!
- Request for Proposals: Access to Electronic Health Information
- New RFQ: 2004 AIDS Community Information Outreach
- Major Outreach Proposals Funded
- PSRML Express Outreach Awards Announced
- Professional Development Awardees – The “Bs” Have It!
- Network Members in the News
- Frequently Asked Questions @ PSRML
- New Members in the Pacific Southwest Region
- New EFTS Participants in the Pacific Southwest Region
- Highlights of the March – April 2004 Issue of the *NLM Technical Bulletin*

**In every issue:**

- Table of Contents for the *NLM Technical Bulletin*
- Upcoming Events
- Publication Information

## Hints on Becoming a PubMed Expert Searcher

Were you around in the good old days when MEDLINE/MEDLARS training took three weeks? Up through the middle 1980s, MEDLINE searching was almost exclusively the province of specially trained librarian “experts”, who had mastered the complex searching command language and had thorough knowledge of the specialized subject headings and indexing practices. But by the late 1980s, user-friendly versions of MEDLINE had begun to proliferate and eventually became widely available on the Internet. The role of the librarian was transformed from search intermediary to instructor and consultant. Demand for mediated online searches dropped substantially, and an increasing number of librarians struggled to maintain their expertise. Strategies such as NLM’s “Gold Standard” search initiative were developed as a result of this trend.

Recently, increased emphases on evidence-based medical practice and patient safety have renewed the need for librarians as expert searchers. Expert searching involves such aspects as extensive knowledge of database subject content, knowledge of the benefits and drawbacks of various system interfaces, and the ability to expertly apply special features such as weighting capabilities. In addition, expert searching includes such factors as doing a thorough interview to clarify the information need(s) of the requester and locating supplementary resources such as unpublished documents and gray literature. Searches for alternatives to animal testing in research studies often involve complex search strategies in multiple databases, requiring the skills of an expert to uncover all relevant information.

Many PubMed users are able to do effective straightforward searches, due to the behind-the-scenes intelligence of the system. Expert searchers of PubMed should be familiar with the workings of such powerful features as automatic term mapping, the process that PubMed uses to match unqualified search terms. Automatic term mapping works by comparing search terms with entries in three translation tables, in the following order: (1) MeSH translation table; (2) Journals translation table; and (3) Author index. The

MeSH translation table includes not only MeSH terms and subheadings, but also publication types, pharmacologic action terms, terms derived from the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), and supplementary substance names. Use of the truncation symbol (\*) disables the automatic term mapping feature.

Another highlight for expert PubMed searchers is the “History” feature, which compiles and numbers searches in the order completed, up to 100 search statements. New searches may be constructed from the history by combining two or more sets, using # with the statement number, e.g., #2 AND #5. Any citations in the “Clipboard” feature are counted as item #0. Search statements are retained in the history for eight hours. Another way to store search strategies for areas of interest is to save them in the “Cubby” feature of PubMed, which can hold up to 100 searches. (Note: see the current issue of the *NLM Technical Bulletin* for some upcoming changes to the “History” and Cubby features.)

To keep up expert searching skills in PubMed, consider the MLA continuing education courses from the “expert searcher” track. Another strategy for staying current with new and revised PubMed features is to thoroughly read the bimonthly *NLM Technical Bulletin*. It also includes important updates of MeSH vocabulary changes. Also of great interest are the Expert Searching columns in the *MLA News*. These columns provide a broader perspective than NLM databases alone, a very important factor for the expert searcher.

Alan Carr

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/expert\\_searcher.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/expert_searcher.html)

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## **You Can Get MLA CE Credit for the Expert Searcher Teleconference Even If You Were Not Able to Attend!**

Have you heard all the buzz about MLA’s “Roles and Essential Skills for the Expert Searcher” Satellite Teleconference? Were you not able to attend? You can still participate and earn MLA CE credit. Here’s how –

PSRML has purchased MLA's Educational Package for this teleconference and will loan the DVD of the teleconference to network members in the Pacific Southwest Region. When you view the DVD and return the MLA evaluation form to PSRML, we will send you a certificate for 2.0 MLA CE contact hours. We then send the evaluation form on to MLA.

This is a great opportunity for MLA CE credit – especially since you can earn the credit in your location and at your convenience. Be aware however, that there is a waiting list for the DVD – a lot of people are interested!

You can sign up for the DVD on the PSRML web site at:  
<http://nnlm.gov/psr/loans/videoloans.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Ricard at PSRML.

Julie Kwan and Karen Ricard

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/mla\\_ce.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/mla_ce.html)

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## Request for Proposals: Access to Electronic Health Information

The **purpose** of this outreach initiative from the National Library of Medicine is to ensure that health professionals, their patients and the general public are connected to the health information resources they need to make informed health care decisions. This Request for Proposals ([http://nnlm.gov/projects/funding/aehi\\_rfp2004/](http://nnlm.gov/projects/funding/aehi_rfp2004/)) focuses on projects designed to improve access to electronic health information for such groups and organizations as consumers, the underserved and minority health care professionals, public health workers, public libraries, and community-based and faith-based organizations. The proposed projects may **target** individuals and organizations providing health information to the public and health professionals, as well as targeting the public directly.

**Types of outreach**, depending on the needs of the target audience, might include:

- promoting awareness of relevant health information resources at the regional, state, and local level through presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits
- linking individuals and organizations with a National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) member for backup assistance in locating hard to find information
- obtaining the full text of journal articles
- teaching how to search the Internet for reliable and authoritative health information
- demonstrating and teaching the use of PubMed, MedlinePlus, *ClinicalTrials.gov*, PHpartners.org, additional NLM databases, and other sources to obtain health information
- developing links to local, state and regional health-related information to enhance what is available in MedlinePlus for consumers

Full and Affiliate members of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) are **eligible** to apply. Applications may cover groups of institutions. A single, lead institution, which

must be an NN/LM member, may apply on behalf of the group. Health sciences libraries, health information resource centers, public libraries, state organizations, and public health departments which provide health information services are eligible for Network membership. See our Network Membership page at <http://nnlm.gov/psr/nm.html> for information about becoming an NN/LM member.

The lead institution, with responsibility for the planning, direction, and execution of the proposed project, will **subcontract** to the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library (PSRML). For a **single institution**, support is available up to **\$10,000**; a **collaborative project conducted by two or more institutions** may receive up to **\$40,000**. These amounts are inclusive of all indirect costs. *Please note that all awards are made as cost reimbursement subcontracts.*

The **period of performance** is up to eighteen (18) months from date of the award.

The **deadline** for submission of proposals is **June 4, 2004**.

For membership information or for additional information on the RFP, please contact Heidi Sandstrom, Interim Associate Director, toll-free at **1-800-338-7657**, directly at **310-794-6572**, or at **heidits@library.ucla.edu**

Let us hear from YOU!

Heidi Sandstrom

*[Editor's note: Content for this article has been adapted from the RFP Overview at [http://nnlm.gov/projects/funding/aehi\\_rfp2004/](http://nnlm.gov/projects/funding/aehi_rfp2004/).]*

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/rfp\\_aehi.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/rfp_aehi.html)

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## **New RFQ: 2004 AIDS Community Information Outreach**

NLM is soliciting proposals from community-based organizations and libraries to design and conduct projects that will improve access to HIV/AIDS-related information for patients, the affected community, and their caregivers. Emphasis is on providing information or access to health and medical information in a way meaningful to the target community.

Projects must involve one or more of the following information access categories:

- Information retrieval to provide or improve access to electronic AIDS-related information resources by the organization or the clientele served, which may require the purchase of computer hardware or software.
- Skills development to provide training in accessing or using HIV/AIDS-related information with online databases and general AIDS information resources to improve services or benefits to the community.
- Resource development which supports meeting the needs of clients or communities with specific educational materials such as fact sheets, bibliographies, guides, or other

products.

- Document access mechanisms for HIV/AIDS-related materials and other types of health information, e.g., development of connections with local health sciences libraries to obtain use of their collections.

Emphasis is placed upon the following types of organizations or arrangements for developing these programs:

- Community-based organizations (CBOs) or patient advocacy groups currently providing AIDS related services to the affected community.
- Public libraries serving communities in the provision of AIDS-related information and resources.
- Health Departments or other local, municipal, or state agencies working to improve the public health.
- Faith-based organizations currently providing AIDS-related services.
- Multi-type consortia of the above-listed organizations that may be in existence or formed specifically for this purpose.

Standard Awards are offered for up to \$50,000; Express Awards with a simplified proposal format are offered for up to \$10,000. Awards will be given for new projects or for the continuation or expansion of projects previously funded by NLM. Proposals are due to NLM on June 18, 2004, and awards will be made by September 30, 2004. The solicitation for the 2004 AIDS Community Information Outreach projects is posted at <http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/HIV/hivaidrsfq04079cyc.html>. Examples of previously funded AIDS Community Information Outreach projects may be viewed at <http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/HIV/HIVOutProj.html>. For more information, contact Alan Carr at PSRML.

Alan Carr

*[Editor's note: Content for this article has been adapted from the RFQ Statement of Work found at <http://www.sis.nlm.nih.gov/HIV/hivaidrsfq04079cyc.html>.]*

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/rfq\\_acio.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/rfq_acio.html)

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## Major Outreach Proposals Funded

The proposals submitted by Arizona Health Sciences Library (AHSL) for *Access to Health Information for Arizona's Tribal Nations II* and *Enhancing AZHealthInfo.org: Phase II of the Arizona Turning Point Public Health Information Centers Project* have both been awarded

funding. These projects, which continue existing awards, will be conducted over the twelve month period from 7/1/04-6/30/05.

## **Access to Health Information for Arizona's Tribal Nations II**

While the initial *Access to Health Information for Arizona's Tribal Nations* project focused on establishing relationships with Southern Arizona tribes, *Tribal Nations II* will expand these efforts statewide, exclusive of the 4 Corners area, which is being targeted by a separate NN/LM interregional project. AHSL will continue its efforts to explore, with tribal representatives as full partners, how to improve access to health information for Native Americans in Arizona. AHSL will initially develop a situational analysis, identify a region of the state where a locus of tribes is interested in improving access to health information, and develop a project for that region. It will subsequently apply the lessons learned to other tribes in other areas of the state.

## **Enhancing AZHealthInfo.org: Phase II of the Arizona Turning Point Public Health Information Centers Project**

The mission of the national Turning Point initiative (<http://www.turningpointprogram.org/>) is to transform and strengthen the public health infrastructure in the United States to make the system more effective, more community-based, and more collaborative. From Arizona's Public Health Improvement Plan, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation selected the following implementation priority to fund: "To partner with communities in Arizona to strengthen their ability to participate more fully in the achievement of public health improvement in Arizona." The Arizona Turning Point Project is one of 23 state projects funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

*Enhancing AZHealthInfo.org* continues the focus on "the establishment of 'public health information centers' in public libraries, public health departments and tribal service centers in the state of Arizona," an outcome associated with the priority mentioned above. The significance of the project lies in its potential to dramatically improve access to public health and consumer health information and therefore significantly strengthen the ability of both citizens and public health workers to improve the health of everyone in the state. A key innovation of this project is its bringing together of the state's public libraries, medical libraries and public health community to collaboratively provide integrated, up-to-date information resources.

With these two worthwhile projects, Arizona Health Sciences Library is once again at the forefront in its efforts to improve the access of Arizona's citizens to reliable health information! Congratulations!

Heidi Sandstrom

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/major\\_funded.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/major_funded.html)

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## **PSRML Express Outreach Awards Announced**

The initial round of PSRML Express Outreach Awards for 2004 has been completed, and three Network members are signing agreements with PSRML. Two projects were awarded \$6,000 in funding, and the other project received \$4,300. The projects strive to improve access to health

information for health professionals and health consumers and to promote the awareness and use of products and services available from the NLM and the NN/LM. Target groups include urban populations, medically underserved communities, and low-income elementary school children.

Congratulations to the following people on their successful proposals. Reports on the progress of these projects will appear in future issues of *Latitudes*.

**Arlene Cohen**, University of Guam, Robert F. Kennedy Library

Project Title: "Internet Professional and Consumer Medical Information Access"

Description: This project, sponsored by Guam Memorial Hospital, will provide four demonstrations to medical and allied health professionals covering such topics as searching MEDLINE using PubMed, obtaining consumer health information using MedlinePlus, using other NLM databases and resources, and evaluating health information. Other targeted groups include members of the American Cancer Society and Guam Diabetes Association, as well as other citizens and citizen groups interested in consumer and patient education.

**Mark Constantz**, San Mateo Medical Center, Medical Library, San Mateo, CA

Project Title: "Clinical Internet Training Lab"

Description: This project will provide twelve demonstrations and activities to train primary care physicians to access NLM databases and Internet resources. Specifically, sessions will cover searching MEDLINE using PubMed, using other NLM databases and resources, and an introduction to health resources on the Web. The target audience includes community physicians unaffiliated with San Mateo Medical Center, who practice at clinics which serve vulnerable populations, such as HIV/AIDS patients and drug addicts. Continuing education credit will be provided through the medical center's Education Department.

**Craig Haynes**, University of California, San Diego, Medical Center Library, San Diego, CA

Project Title: "Lung Express @Preuss"

Description: This project involves collaboration with the San Diego Chapter of the American Lung Association on a demonstration project that will bring a special curriculum on the respiratory system and lung health to a group of sixth grade students at the Preuss School UCSD. Ten training sessions will be provided, reaching approximately 140 students. Each student will receive two hours of *Lung Express* training over two days. The general demographics of the school are 57% Hispanic; 15% African American, 22% Asian/Indo-Chinese, and 6% White. Training will cover obtaining health information using MedlinePlus and an introduction to health resources on the Web, including *ToxTown*.

Applications for Express Outreach Awards are accepted on a continuing basis throughout the year. For more information and to apply, please refer to the PSRML Express Outreach Awards page, located at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/outreach\\_award\\_info.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/outreach_award_info.html).

Congratulations to our awardees!

Alan Carr

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/express\\_announced.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/express_announced.html)

## Professional Development Awardees – The “Bs” Have It!

Congratulations to two recent recipients of our PSRML Professional Development Award: Barbara Bibel of Oakland Public Library, and Geri Bodeker of the Health Sciences Library of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, South San Francisco.

**Barbara Bibel** has received funding to attend the continuing education course, *Molecular Biology and Genetics*, offered in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association. She intends to use what she learns to help her patrons and to train those who staff the reference desk at her library.

**Geri Bodeker** will use a portion of her award to take a module of *Introduction to Biomedical Informatics: A Web-Based Continuing Education Course for Health Sciences Librarians* offered by Oregon Health & Science University. She will use the remainder of the award to take advantage of some of the offerings that are available through California's InfoPeople Project (<http://www.infopeople.org/>). These courses will enhance Geri's ability to provide research assistance to health professionals and health information to the community at large.

For more information about the PSRML Professional Development Award visit our webpage at <http://nnlm.gov/psr/libproa.html>.

Heidi Sandstrom

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/prof\\_awardees.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/prof_awardees.html)

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## Network Members in the News

**Anna Habetler**, recently employed by San Diego's Childrens Hospital and Health Center, was awarded the 2004 Louise Darling MLGSCA Achievement Award. This award honors an individual for significant contributions to health sciences librarianship, as well as to the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona. Anna has been an active member of MLGSCA since 1979, and has served as the chapter's Treasurer, President, and MLA Benchmarking Chapter Educator.

**Frieda Ling**, a reference librarian at Glendale Public Library (Glendale, Arizona), was recognized December 19, 2003, as an Outstanding Friend of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). The group acknowledged Frieda's enthusiastic advocacy in providing the public with extensive information and educational programs. She was honored by NAMI for helping to increase the public's awareness about mental illness and working to eliminate the stigma surrounding those affected.

**Marilyn Schwartz**, Chief Librarian at the San Diego Naval Hospital until the end of May, 2004, received the MLGSCA Lifetime Achievement Award – only the second time this award has been given. This award honors the significant lifetime achievements of a MLGSCA member who has made lasting contributions to the profession of health science librarianship beyond the scope of the local chapter. For over thirty years, Marilyn has been an active, energizing, and innovative



leader in such groups as MLGSCA, the Federal Library Section of MLA, and the San Diego Health Science Librarians group.

Julie Kwan

*[Editor's Note: Please share news with us about yourself and your colleagues!]*

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/members\\_news.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/members_news.html)

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## Frequently Asked Questions @ PSRML

Below are some questions (with the answers) that have come into the PSRML office since the last issue of *Latitudes*. Take a look!

- How much time does it take to do a mediated search? I need some figures for a budget projection.
- I'm updating DOCLINE Serials Holdings information for several LIBIDs. It's a hassle logging in as one library, doing my updates, logging out, and then repeating the process for another library. Do you have any suggestions?
- Can I use Tugger's picture on the invitation for our staff baby shower?
- How can I get an electronic copy of my library group's union list?

**Question:** How much time does it take to do a mediated search? I need some figures for a budget projection.

### Answer

PSRML received this question just a few days after the MLA Expert Searcher Teleconference – so we contacted one of the conference presenters, Michael Homan, Director of Libraries at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine (and well known to many of our network members through his earlier work at PSRML, UCLA, and UCI).

Michael provided some overall search numbers – in a recent month, staff at the Mayo libraries in Rochester, Minnesota, conducted 838 searches of which approximately 50 were “expert” searches. Patricia Erwin, head reference librarian at the Mayo Clinic Libraries in Rochester, suggested that, for a straightforward clinical search, when the searcher is familiar with the topic and database, the standard 20 minute figure is about correct. But beyond that, an expert search can take quite a bit of time. Patricia suggested a range of between one and a half to thirty hours. In her own words:

“[For the] expert search, the initial interview can take at least an hour. Then there is an introductory topical review, just to see what's out there with the terminology (and spelling variations) the requester used – on databases or on the web or in books. At this point, I would be looking for both concepts and vocabulary. That usually takes at least another hour and may be intermittent over several days... And you have to factor in discussions with the requester for questions or clarification. Once the searching starts, I generally figure at least two hours per database, and I may have to revisit each at least once. Once the basic search is done, reviewing the results will take at least four hours and

may generate another round of searching. Continuity of thought is needed for expert searching; the time has to be in blocks with no interruptions.

“For a hospital librarian...start early to make the administration understand that expert does mean an investment, and the ROI (return on investment) can be their reputation.”

Patricia’s final comments on advocacy are really important!

**Question:** I’m updating DOCLINE Serial Holdings information for several LIBIDs. It’s a hassle logging in as one library, doing my updates, logging out, and then repeating the process for another library. Do you have any suggestions?

### **Answer**

If you are responsible for updating Serial Holdings for more than one library, please contact PSRML. We will create a new DOCLINE account that allows the user to make changes to the Serial Holdings for several DOCLINE libraries. All we need to know are the LIBIDs of these other libraries.

**Question:** Can I use Tugger’s picture on the invitation for our staff baby shower?

### **Answer**

Unfortunately, you can’t use Tugger’s image for this purpose. The license agreement that the National Library of Medicine has for the "Tugger" image with Comstock Images (<http://www.comstock.com/>) does not allow non-NLM employees to use the image. If you would like to use the image, you would need to purchase the image for your own use. The Comstock Images number for Tugger is KS16494.

**Question:** How can I get an electronic copy of my library group’s union list?

### **Answer**

Union lists for DOCLINE Library Groups are generated quarterly by the DOCLINE system and are accessible within it. The **Holdings by Library Group** Union List products are updated starting on the first Friday of the following months: January, April, July, and October. The **Holdings by State/Province** Union List products are updated starting on the first Friday of the month in February, May, August, and November. The data for all union list products is sorted by Title, then by Document Delivery City, and Document Delivery Institution Name.

To access the union lists in DOCLINE, click on **Serial Holdings**, then click on **Reports**. Click on the **Union Lists** link at the bottom of the left-hand column. This will update the right-hand area of the screen to display all the union list products your library has access to either by being a member of library groups or by residing in a particular state or province.

There are two formats for union lists: standard or delimited. The standard format is pre-formatted for you and includes the following fields in the list: Title, NLM Unique ID, ISSN, Publisher, Place of Publication, Publication Date, Frequency, Continuation Notes, City, Library, and Holdings information. The delimited format includes the same fields as the standard format,

but the fields are separated with commas, the text delimiter is quotation marks, and the first row of the file includes field names.

The specifics for downloading the union lists depend on the Web browser you are using. If you would like to save the union list in HTML format, visit the following Web page for instructions: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/doc\\_serhold\\_union\\_save\\_standard.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/doc_serhold_union_save_standard.html). If you would like to save a union list in delimited format to import it into a spreadsheet or database application, visit the following Web page for instructions:

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/doc\\_serhold\\_union\\_save\\_delimited.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/doc_serhold_union_save_delimited.html)

If you need any assistance, please contact PSRML at 800-338-7657 or [psr-nlm@library.ucla.edu](mailto:psr-nlm@library.ucla.edu).

Julie Kwan and Andrea Lynch

This article is freely available at: <http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/faq@psrml.html>

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## New Members in the Pacific Southwest Region

Since the March/April issue of *Latitudes*, four libraries have joined the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM), Pacific Southwest Region. Please welcome the following new members of NN/LM!

Member Type	LIBID	Institution	Department	DOCLINE Active
Affiliate	CAUHKH	City of Glendale	Glendale Public Library	N/A
Affiliate	CAUJPZ	Tercica, Inc.	Corporate Library	N/A
Full	CAUJKK	Prevention Research Center	Library	Not yet
Full	NVUJRO	University of Southern Nevada	Library & Learning Resources Center	Yes

### You Can Help!

If you know of a library or resource center that is not part of the Network and qualifies for either Affiliate or Full membership, please let us know or refer them to us. For more information, visit the following webpage on network membership within the Pacific Southwest Region:

<http://www.nnlm.gov/psr/nm.html>.

Andrea Lynch

This article is freely available at: [http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/new\\_members.html](http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/new_members.html)

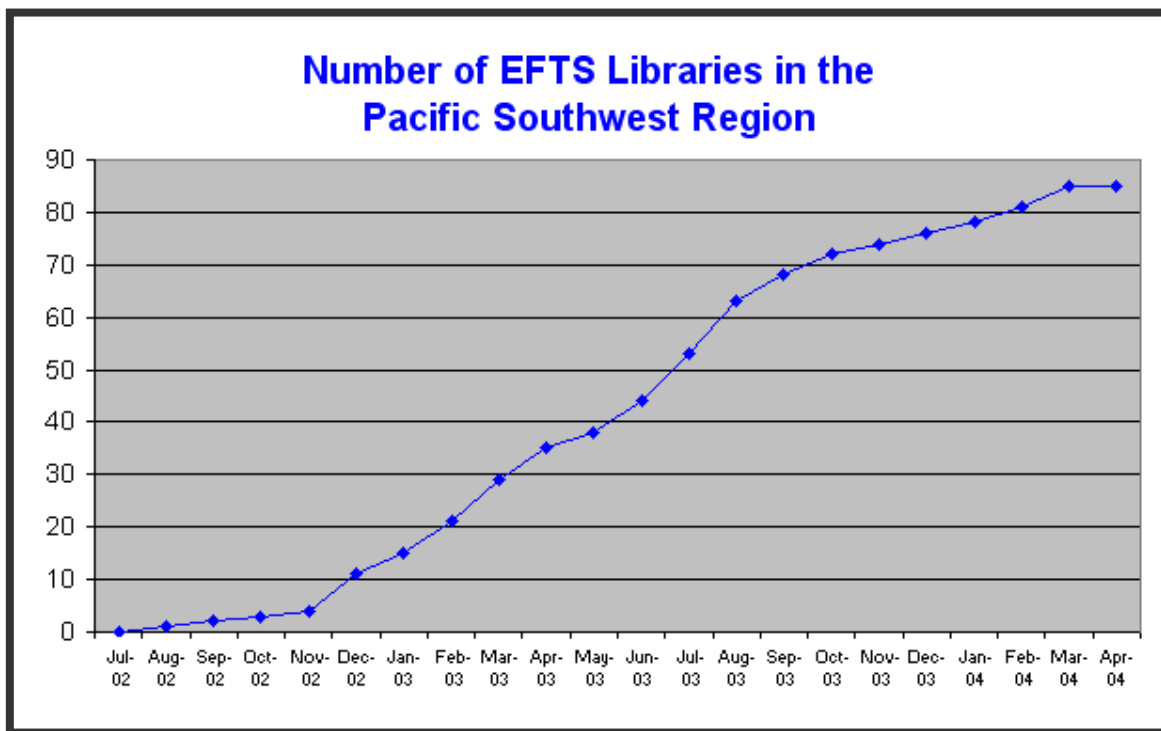
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## New EFTS Participants in the Pacific Southwest Region

The following six libraries have joined the Electronic Funds Transfer System (EFTS) since the last issue of *Latitudes* was published. As of May 4, 2004, 87 (21%) of the 414 DOCLINE libraries in the NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region are EFTS participants. Who will be the next new EFTS participant?

### Primary Access Libraries

El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, CA  
Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda, CA  
Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, San Diego, CA  
Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center, Burbank, CA  
Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Moreno Valley, CA  
Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa, CA



To see all EFTS participants, search DOCLINE or visit the following webpage:

<https://efts.uchc.edu/efts/common/MembersDirectory.aspx>. For participants in the Pacific Southwest Region, select "07 Pacific Southwest Region" for the NN/LM Region pull-down menu and click on the Search button.

For more information about EFTS, please visit the EFTS website: <https://efts.uchc.edu/>. Please contact Julie or Andrea with any questions or concerns you may have regarding EFTS.

Julie Kwan and Andrea Lynch

This article is freely available at: <http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/efts.html>

## Highlights of the March – April 2004 Issue of the *NLM Technical Bulletin*

### NLM Web Site's Coming New Look

A new NLM web site will debut on May 10, 2004. PSRML staff members have had an opportunity to see the new design, and we believe it will be a great improvement. It will be easier to quickly get to any of the NLM databases, the site will download faster than before, and navigation will be much easier. No URLs will change as a result of the redesign, so you can rest comfortably that you will not need to change NLM URLs on your own web site.

### 2004 MLA Meeting Activities

As usual, the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association is an excellent time to learn more about NLM resources and services. Complete information is available at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma04/ma04\\_mla.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/ma04/ma04_mla.html). Don't miss the NLM Online Users' Meeting "Sunrise Seminar" on Monday, May 24, and the NLM Update on Tuesday, May 25.

Have you ever visited NLM? If not, this meeting affords a wonderful opportunity! Public tours are available Monday through Friday afternoons. Other NLM related opportunities include CE courses, the Friends of the NLM reception, MLA chapter-sponsored Sharing Roundtables, several informal meetings (MedlinePlus Go Local, LinkOut, and EFTS), the NN/LM Hospital Internet Access Task Force open forum, and many topics in section-sponsored programming, and of course the NLM booth in the MLA exhibit hall. Go to the link above for a complete listing of NLM related activities at MLA.

### PubMed Changes

If you aspire to being an expert searcher, please read the articles on PubMed in this issue!

1. Entrez Programming Redesign Improves PubMed:
  - A colon between numbers is now interpreted as a ranging operator; otherwise the colon will be ignored.
  - If an operator (AND, OR, NOT) is not entered when combining nested terms with other terms, the AND operator will be applied.
  - Hyphens continue to indicate a phrase search (did you know this?). However, if the phrase is not found in the index of searchable terms, PubMed will combine the individual words from the phrase using the AND operator. A notice indicating that the term (as a phrase) was not found will be displayed on the results screen.
  - If the searcher enters a query with errors, PubMed will display a notice on the results screen with a link to the Details screen.
  - The Query translation box in the Details screen no longer displays terms not found in the database; these are listed under "Phrase(s) Not Found."
  - If a search has other errors, the results screen will note the error and refer the searcher to Details.
2. Link to Clinical Queries Added to MeSH Database
  - You can now transfer term(s) found in the MeSH database to a Clinical Queries search in PubMed.

- You can then type additional words in the query box if you wish.
  - Note: you cannot use subheadings and tags for Major Topic and Do Not Explode using this feature.
3. PubMed History Feature to Include Extra Options
    - Changes are being made to History that will allow more sophisticated searching.
    - You will also be able to delete a search statement
  4. The Technical Notes section reminds us that inactive PubMed Cubby accounts will be cancelled. A new feature, automatic e-mailing of stored search results, will soon be added to the Cubby.
  5. PubMed for Handhelds has a new URL – <http://pubmedhh.nlm.nih.gov>.
  6. PubMed now has three new animated presentations for users who wish to learn about the MeSH Database.
  7. The PubMed LinkOut display for Links to HSDB has been updated.

### **PubMed Central: New Journals and New Back Issues**

PubMed Central will not include the journal *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*. Earlier volumes have been added for the following titles:

- *Applied Microbiology*
- *Cardiovascular Diseases*
- *Journal of Bacteriology*
- *Journal of Clinical Investigation*
- *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*
- *Microbiological Reviews*
- *Molecular and Cellular Biology*
- *Nucleic Acids Research*
- *PNAS: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
- *Texas Heart Institute Journal*

Please see the article for more detailed information.

### **MedlinePlus Changes**

Upper/lower cases have changed; MEDLINEplus has morphed to MedlinePlus. MedlinePlus also has a new tagline, “Trusted health information for you”. You can also link to the NLM and NIH home pages from all pages in MedlinePlus.

### **Updates from NLM’s Specialized Information Services**

Searchers who use the specialty chemical files, should read the technical notes about:

- ChemIDplus Update (ChemIDplus Lite and the new ChemIDplus Spell Checker)
- The New TOXNET resource – International Toxicity Estimates (ITER) database
- TOXLINE Special can now be searched in the Journal Citations section of the NLM Gateway.
- PDA applications in toxicology and environmental health

### **NLM Classification 2004 Edition Now Available**

Highlights of this new edition include:

- “Violence in the workplace” has a new class number, WA420.
- "Hospital Accreditation. Licensure. Standards" has a new class number, WX40-WX40.1.
- Cancelled class numbers now appear in normal sequence for informational purposes.
- Various instructional notes were added to index entries to clarify classification practices.

See this article for more issues and details.

## **Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) Changes**

- The web site has been restructured to improve access to existing information and to add new information.
- The 2004AA release will include SNOMED CT (ClinicalTerms).
- The UMLS license process is now available online.

For more information about UMLS, including information sent directly to UMLS subscribers, please read this article.

## **New Clinical Alert**

NIH instructed participants in the estrogen-alone study of the Women’s Health Initiative to stop taking their study pills and to begin the follow-up phase of the study.

To date, NIH has released 27 clinical alerts. You can click through to a complete listing on PubMed’s blue sidebar and under the appropriate health topics in MedlinePlus.

Julie Kwan

This article is freely available at: <http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/highlights.html>

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## **Table of Contents for *NLM Technical Bulletin***

Table of Contents for the March – April 2004 issue:

### **Link to Clinical Queries Added to MeSH<sup>®</sup> Database - e2**

New feature added to Links pull-down menu.

### **PubMed Central<sup>™</sup>: New Journals Participating and New Content Added - e3**

New Journals Are Participating and Content From Already-participating Journals Has Been Added.

### **Entrez Programming Redesign Improves PubMed<sup>®</sup> - e4**

PubMed improves the way search queries are interpreted.

### ***NLM Classification 2004 Edition Now Available - e5***

Additions and changes to the schedules and index.

### **New Look for NLM<sup>®</sup> Web Site Coming Soon - e6**

NLM main Web site redesign to be released May 10, 2004.

**2004 MLA Meeting Reminder and Invitation - e7**

NLM will offer exhibits, demonstrations, classes, tours, and other programming during the May 21-26 meeting.

**PubMed® History Feature To Include Extra Options - e8**

Users will be able to delete individual search statements from the History, as well as combine History statements in a search more easily.

**Unified Medical Language System® (UMLS®) Changes - e9**

The UMLS Web site has been restructured to enhance access to existing information and to add new information to improve the understanding of and access to the UMLS resources.

**Technical Notes - e1**

New Book Added to NCBI Bookshelf

Additional Digitized Back Issues Available in PubMed Central®

New Clinical Alert Issued

ChemIDplus Update

Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health

New TOXNET Resource: International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (ITER) Database

Changes in MedlinePlus®

Inactive PubMed® Cubby Accounts to be Canceled

"Microbial Diversity: Let's Tell It How It Is" Added to Coffee Break

PubMed for Handhelds Has New URL

NLM Gateway Searches TOXLINE® Special

PubMed® MeSH Database Animated Tutorials

MedlinePlus® Goes Local With Missouri Community Connection

PubMed® LinkOut Display for Links to HSDB® Updated

NCBI Bookshelf Adds New Book



Serials Data for Titles in NLM's List of Serials Indexed for Online Users is Now Available in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) Format

This article is freely available at: <http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/TOCtechbull.html>

## Upcoming Events

May 2004	
8 – 13	Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association, <a href="http://www.aula2004.org/">http://www.aula2004.org/</a> , San Francisco, CA ( <i>PSRML Exhibit</i> , 5/9-12/2004)
21 – 26	Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, <a href="http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2004/index.html">http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2004/index.html</a> , Washington, DC
June 2004	
5 – 10	2004 Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association, <a href="http://www.sla.org/nashville2004/intro2.htm">http://www.sla.org/nashville2004/intro2.htm</a> , Nashville, TN
7 – 11	Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) 2004, <i>Global Reach and Diverse Impact</i> , <a href="http://www.jcdl2004.org/">http://www.jcdl2004.org/</a> , Tucson, AZ
9	Consumer Health Training for MCLS Librarians, <a href="http://www.mcls.org/webpublic/training/training.cfm">http://www.mcls.org/webpublic/training/training.cfm</a> , 9:00am - 12:00pm, Cerritos Public Library, Cerritos, CA
24 – 30	2004 Annual Conference of the American Library Association, <a href="http://www.ala.org/Content/ContentGroups/Events_and_Conferences2/Annual/AN2004/home.htm">http://www.ala.org/Content/ContentGroups/Events_and_Conferences2/Annual/AN2004/home.htm</a> , Orlando, FL
30	Consumer Health Training for MCLS Librarians, <a href="http://www.mcls.org/webpublic/training/training.cfm">http://www.mcls.org/webpublic/training/training.cfm</a> , 9:00am - 12:00pm, Oxnard Public Library, Oxnard, CA
July 2004	
13 – 16	21 <sup>st</sup> Annual Pacific Educational Conference (PEC), <a href="http://www.prel.org/pec2004/index.asp">http://www.prel.org/pec2004/index.asp</a> , Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ( <i>PSRML Class</i> , "Building Health and Environmental Literacy with NLM Resources", 7/15/2004)
26	NTCC, <i>PubMed</i> (1-day), <a href="http://nnlm.gov/mar/online/description.html">http://nnlm.gov/mar/online/description.html</a> , Los Angeles, CA
27	NTCC, <i>PubMed</i> (1-day), <a href="http://nnlm.gov/mar/online/description.html">http://nnlm.gov/mar/online/description.html</a> , Los Angeles, CA
28	NTCC, <i>NLM Gateway &amp; ClinicalTrails.gov</i> (1/2-day), <a href="http://nnlm.gov/mar/online/description.html">http://nnlm.gov/mar/online/description.html</a> , Los Angeles, CA
August 2004	
11 – 14	Nevada Library Association Annual Conference, <a href="http://www.nevadalibraries.org/conference04/index.html">http://www.nevadalibraries.org/conference04/index.html</a> , Henderson, NV
28 – 29	The Latino Book & Family Festival, <a href="http://lbff.us/home/schedule/phoenix-2004/index.htm">http://lbff.us/home/schedule/phoenix-2004/index.htm</a> , Phoenix, AZ ( <i>PSRML Exhibit</i> )
September 2004	
7 – 11	MEDINFO 2004, American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), <a href="http://www.medinfo2004.org/">http://www.medinfo2004.org/</a> , San Francisco, CA
19 – 21	National Association of Community Health Centers Annual Convention 2004, <a href="http://www.nachc.com">http://www.nachc.com</a> , San Francisco, CA
22 at 11am (PDT); 8am	MLA teleconference, "The Art and Practice of Electronic Journal, Book, and Database Licenses: Practical Tips for Health Care Organizations"

(HST); 23 at 4am (GST)	
29	PSRML Resource Library Directors' Meeting, Irvine, CA
29 – Oct. 2	Emergency Nurses Association Annual Meeting 2004, <a href="http://www.ena.org/">http://www.ena.org/</a> , San Diego, CA ( <i>PSRML Exhibit, 9/30-10/2/2004</i> )
<b>October 2004</b>	
2 – 5	American Dietetic Association 2004 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo, <a href="http://www.eatright.org/Public/ConferencesAndEvents/96.cfm">http://www.eatright.org/Public/ConferencesAndEvents/96.cfm</a> , Anaheim, CA ( <i>PSRML Exhibit, 10/3-5/2004</i> )
7 – 10	American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Annual Assembly & Technical Exhibition, <a href="http://www.aapmr.org">http://www.aapmr.org</a> , Phoenix, AZ ( <i>PSRML Exhibit, 10/7-9/2004</i> )
23 – 24	Hawaii Library Association Conference 2004, <a href="http://www.hlaweb.org/conference2004/index.html">http://www.hlaweb.org/conference2004/index.html</a> , Oahu, HI
<b>November 2004</b>	
TBA	Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives (PIALA), <a href="http://www.uog.edu/rfk/piala/piala.html">http://www.uog.edu/rfk/piala/piala.html</a> , Republic of the Marshall Islands
12 – 15	California Library Association Annual Conference, <a href="http://www.cla-net.org/news/confexhibition.php">http://www.cla-net.org/news/confexhibition.php</a> , San Jose, CA ( <i>PSRML Exhibit, 11/13-15/2004</i> )
15 – 17	Internet Librarian 2004, <a href="http://www.infoday.com/il2004/">http://www.infoday.com/il2004/</a> , Monterey, CA
30 – Dec. 2	Arizona Library Association Annual Conference, <a href="http://www.azla.org/conference/conferences.html">http://www.azla.org/conference/conferences.html</a> , Tucson, AZ ( <i>PSRML Exhibit, 12/1-2/2004</i> )
<b>December 2004</b>	
2 – 3	NLM and NN/LM Symposium on Community-Based Health Information Outreach, Bethesda, MD

\* Please visit the PSRML Library Professional Development Award Web page to apply for an award to attend educational events. PSRML will make available awards up to \$1,000 to individuals in Primary Access Libraries in the Pacific Southwest Region. Applications may be made at any time.

This article is freely available at: <http://nnlm.gov/psr/lat/v13n3/upcoming.html>

## Publication Information

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Network members may subscribe to the Regional email discussion list by visiting the following webpage: <http://www.nnlm.gov/psr/lserv/rg7/>. If you do not want to subscribe to the Regional

email discussion list, but would like to receive *Latitudes* go to <http://www.nlm.gov/psr/lserv/lat/>.

Please send items and contributed articles for *Latitudes* to Julie Kwan, Editor, at [jkkwan@library.ucla.edu](mailto:jkkwan@library.ucla.edu).

Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library (PSRML) serves as headquarters for the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

## Contact Information

UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library/PSRML  
12-077 CHS  
Box 951798  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798

Phone: (310)825-1200 or (800)338-7657  
Fax: (310)825-5389  
URL: <http://nlm.gov/psr/>

## PSRML Staff

[Judy Consales](#), MLS, Director, [consales@library.ucla.edu](mailto:consales@library.ucla.edu)

[Alan Carr](#), MLS, AHIP, Health Information Services Coordinator,  
[acarr@library.ucla.edu](mailto:acarr@library.ucla.edu)

[Kay Deeney](#), MLS, AHIP, Education & Exhibit Coordinator, [kdeeney@library.ucla.edu](mailto:kdeeney@library.ucla.edu)

[Julie Kwan](#), MS, AHIP, Library Network Coordinator, [jkkwan@library.ucla.edu](mailto:jkkwan@library.ucla.edu)

[Heidi Sandstrom](#), RN, PHN, MLIS, Interim Associate Director and Consumer Health Information Services Coordinator, [heidits@library.ucla.edu](mailto:heidits@library.ucla.edu)

[Andrea Lynch](#), Network Assistant, [andlynch@library.ucla.edu](mailto:andlynch@library.ucla.edu)

[Michael Miller](#), Computer Resource Specialist, [mmiller@library.ucla.edu](mailto:mmiller@library.ucla.edu)

[Karen Ricard](#), Administrative Assistant, [kricard@library.ucla.edu](mailto:kricard@library.ucla.edu)

[Jeanneth Quevedo](#), Administrative Assistant, [jquevedo@library.ucla.edu](mailto:jquevedo@library.ucla.edu)

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